

REPORT OF ALASKA STUDY COMMITTEE

April 23, 1953

Dr. Jean Moore Cavell, Chairman
Dr. D. Campbell Wyckoff, Secretary
Rev. Rolland Armstrong, Advisor
Mrs. Roland P. Beattie
Dr. Raymond Campbell
Dr. Hugh I Evans

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I. Introduction

A. Background of the Alaska Study Committee

In April 1951, a committee appointed by the Board of National Missions met with representatives of the Methodist Church to consider educational needs in Alaska. Mrs. Roland Beattie, Mr. Charles Albers, Miss Katharine Gladfelter and Dr. J. Earl Jackman represented the Board.

At the April 1951 meeting of the Board a committee was appointed to make a study of Alaska's educational needs, to survey the present program and to make recommendations for a future program for the Presbyterian Church. Mrs. Roland Beattie, Dr. Hugh I. Evans, Dr. Raymond Campbell, and Mrs. Matthew Cavell from the Board with Rev. Rolland Armstrong, Field Representative in Alaska, and Dr. D. Campbell Wyckoff, Chairman, Department of Religious Education, New York University, comprised the Committee with Mrs. Cavell, Chairman.

Early in June this Committee spent a week at Sheldon Jackson Junior College and in Juneau to become acquainted at first hand with some aspects involved in the study. A preliminary report of that visit was made to the Executive Committee of the Board June 11, 1951, and a written report was put on file in the offices of Dr. Sharp and of Miss Gladfelter. As background for the visit each committee member was furnished with a "Book of Facts" setting forth "Background for the Board's Action Constituting the Committee" with outlines on the various aspects of the program at SJJC, and with factual material on Alaska and its educational system. Upon arrival at SJJC each member received a collection of papers resulting from studies made by the staff and administrators of the school. Because all of these are on file and constitute a part of this report reference to them will occasionally be made in this part of the report without repeating the text in toto.

B. The Territory of Alaska

The basic fact to be faced by the Church or any other institution seeking to serve Alaska is the combination of a vast geographic area and a relatively small and scattered population. "Alaska is about 586,400 square miles in area or one-fifth the size of the United States, and the distance from Ketchikan in southeastern Alaska, to Attu, westernmost of the Aleutian Islands, is greater than that from New York to San Francisco.¹ This vast territory has a population of 136,000.² During the last decade the population has fluctuated greatly, but a net increase (largely white) of 77% is recorded. Southeastern Alaska, the area predominately served by Sheldon Jackson Junior College, has an approximate population of 30,000, with five communities of over 1,000, the largest being Juneau, with close to 6,000. Southeastern Alaska has a native population of about 12,000 predominately Indian. Other native groups

tory are Aleut (approximately 6,000) and Eskimo (approximately 16,000). So far as there can be said to be any concentrations of population in Alaska they are in the district including Anchorage (32,000) and the district including Fairbanks (19,400) both distant from Southeastern Alaska and from each other.

The economic base for Alaska has been fishing, mining and the fur industry, with some agriculture and forestry. The economy of the territory has been greatly influenced by three factors: (1) The presence of a large military establishment, (2) dependence upon the States, via shipping, for most basic supplies and for marketing, and (3) The possibilities of large scale industrial developments such as that now projected by the Aluminum Corporation of America in the neighborhood of Skagway. A pulp mill costing over \$30,000,000 is being constructed at Ketchikan which will increase economic resources and expand population in that area. A "Pulp Mill" road is nearing completion near Sitka which will permit developments there in the near future. As recently as January 1953 a delegation from Japan spent time in Sitka investigating timber resources with a view to possible construction of a saw mill. These projected industrial developments would result in a larger more permanent population in Southeast Alaska with consequent larger number of potential students for such a school as Sheldon Jackson.

C. Education in Alaska

"The Territorial Government administers a school system, for white and native, students, composed of 88 schools (26 incorporated and 62 rural) and the University of Alaska. Direction and supervision of the public schools is under the Territorial Board of Education, with the Commissioner of Education at Juneau as the Executive Officer.

"The Federal Government administers the schools in about 100 native villages where there are no Territorial schools. Administration is under the Alaska Native Service, which is the Alaska Branch of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, United States Department of the Interior. Where Territorial Schools exist, the enrollment includes Eskimo, Indian, and Aleut pupils. Education of the native children is being transferred from Federal to Territorial jurisdiction as rapidly as conditions justify. To facilitate this transfer, Federal-owned school buildings and equipment are transferred to the territory or to local communities, without charge, when Federal schools are transferred to Territorial administration.

"Missions Schools throughout the territory provide educational opportunities for approximately 600 native children.

C --Education in Alaska (continued)

"An estimated 10,500 native children are of school age. Approximately 2,950 of these children attend territorial schools. The Alaska Native Service maintains about 100 community day schools in native villages throughout the Territory. Many of the children come to these schools without knowledge of the English language or familiarity with non-native cultural customs. In addition to a curriculum, similar to that of the Territorial public schools, emphasis is placed on teaching beginners English and familiarizing them with the American way of life. These schools are outside incorporated towns, mostly in the Aleutian, interior and Arctic regions. The enrollment is approximately 4,200.

"In addition to the community day schools, the Alaska Native Service maintains three boarding schools. Two of these, White Mountain, 90 miles east of Nome, and Mt. Edgecombe, near Sitka, are high schools, drawing enrollment from the entire Territory. Vocational and college preparatory courses are offered. Approximately 700 pupils are enrolled. Wrangell Institute, in Southeastern Alaska, is an elementary boarding school with an enrollment of about 200 dependent children from all parts of the Territory.

"The public High schools at Anchorage, Cordova, Douglas, Fairbanks, Juneau, Ketchikan, Kodiak, Nome, Palmer, Petersburg, Seward, Sitka, Skagway, Wrangell, the rural high school at Wasilla, the Sheldon Jackson School at Sitka, and the Mt. Edgecombe Vocational school (Alaska Native Service) are on the accredited list of the Northwest Association of Secondary and Higher Schools. High Schools accredited by the Territorial Department of Education include those located at Haines, Nenana, and Valdez, as well as those maintained in connection with a number of rural schools.

"The University of Alaska, one of the 69 land-grant colleges established by the United States Congress, is on a 2,250-acre tract at College Station, approximately 3 miles west of the Fairbanks. College Station at the foot of College Hill, is on the main line of the Alaska Railroad. Regular bus service is maintained between Fairbanks and the University.

"The permanent buildings are the gymnasium, library, museum, power plant, post office, administrative offices, Geophysical Institute, faculty homes, and dormitories. The new Geophysical Institute, completed in 1950 at a cost of almost a million dollars is Alaska's first earth-quake-proof building. The purpose of this institute is to advance knowledge in the broad field of physics of the earth and to emphasize geophysics as it is related to the Arctic. Some of the finest facilities in the world will be available for studying the Arctic, the stratosphere and regions beyond.

Education in Alaska (Continued)

"The University of Alaska is fully accredited by the Northwest Association of Secondary and Higher Schools and is approved for immigrant students under the Immigration Act of 1924. Entrance requirements are on a standard with those of leading universities elsewhere and military training is required of all men students during their first two years.

"Regular 4-year courses are offered in agriculture, arts and letters, business administration, chemistry, education, civil engineering, general science, and home economics, and leading to the various bachelor's degrees. In civil, mining and metallurgical engineering and in geology, students have an option of 4-year courses leading to bachelor's degrees or 5-year courses leading to either bachelor's or professional degrees. A premedical course and two years of prenursing also are offered. Short courses are given to hundreds of persons each year throughout the Territory.

"The graduating class in June 1950 was the largest in the history of the University of Alaska--43 degrees were awarded. The largest previous graduating class was in 1941 when 33 degrees were given. Of the 43 degrees, 23 were Bachelor of Science degrees; 10 in the School of Mines; 7 in Civil Engineering; 3 in Home Economics; 2 in Chemistry and 1 in the Premedical Curriculum. Eleven Bachelor degrees were awarded in Arts and Letters, three in Business Administration, three in Education, two in Agriculture, and one 5-year degree in Mining Engineering.

"During the 1949-1950 academic year a total of 1,481 students received instruction. Credit course students totaled 509 and non-credit course students totaled 972." ³

The Sheldon Jackson Junior College has the policy of admitting other than native students, and has added a two-year course beyond high school. Students in this Junior college course, though the number has been small, have fallen into two Classifications: (1) Those engaged in "Terminal Programs", and (2) Those preparing to complete college work in the States.

Recently two additional developments have appeared to influence the situation in higher education. Discussion has taken place around, and funds have been raised toward, the possibility of a church-related four-year liberal arts college in Alaska. Studies have also been made of the need for possibly several community colleges under the auspices of the University of Alaska.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. "Alaska, 1951" Washington D.C. U.S. Department of Interior, Office of the Territories, p.3.
2. July 1, 1950, estimate, Bureau of the Census.
3. From "Mid-Century Alaska," Washington D.C; U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of the Territories, pp 51-58.

C-Education in Alaska (Continued)

Secondary and higher education in Alaska

Two separate school systems exist in Alaska, one maintained by the Department of Education of the Territory and the other by the Alaska Native System (ANS) which is a part of the Office of Indian Affairs of the Department of the Interior. Some steps looking toward consolidation have been taken but many problems remain to be ironed out.

Some private schools are maintained under denominational or independent auspices.

1 -- Statistics in Brief

A - Colleges - 2

- (1) University of Alaska, Fairbanks
- (2) Sheldon Jackson Junior College, Sitka

B - High Schools - 29 total number of schools in Alaska offering high school work

Territorial (Incorporated and rural)	24
Alaska Native Service (Federal Government)	1
Private and Denominational	4

2 -- Public Education (Territory and ANS)A - Under Department of Education of the Territory
(from the report of the Commissioner June 30, 1950)

(1) Schools in incorporated Districts

a. Number of schools	26
b. Total enrollment (elementary and high school)	11,173
c. Number of High schools	18
Accredited by the Northwest Territory Association of Secondary and Higher Schools	14

Southeastern Alaska

Douglas	Sitka
Juneau	Skagway
Ketchikan	Wrangell
Petersburg	

Southwestern Alaska, the Interior and Bering Sea

Anchorage	Nome
Cordova	Palmer
Fairbanks	Seward
Kodiak	

d. Graduates, 1950

Eighth Grade	636
High School	355

Secondary and Higher Education in Alaska (continued)

(2) Rural Schools

a. Number of Schools (largely one and two room buildings)	61
b. Enrollment	2735
c. Number offering high school work	6
Total number of high school Teachers	8
Combined elementary and high school teachers	5

(3) Program of Studies

See the report of the Commissioner, Page 43-51

B. Under the Alaska Native service (Indian, Aleut and Eskimo children only) (Facts from information bulletin of the ANS)

(1) Total enrollment 1949-1950 in ANS Boarding and day Schools	5,400
Total educational employees	320

(2) Boarding Schools:

- a. - Mt. Edgecombe School (on Japonski Island at Sitka)
 Grades Junior and Senior High School. Also Vocational Post High School work. A strong vocational emphasis in the entire program.
 Enrollment 600
 Student body: Indian, Eskimo, Aleut, draws native students from all over Alaska who do not have access to High School work.
- b. - White Mountain (Southeast Nome)
 Grades: Junior High School, academic and vocational courses.
 Enrollment: 70
 Student body: Eskimo
 Area served: For children from the western section of Alaska who have completed their local community schools.
- c. - Wrangell Institute (Wrangell)
 Grades: Elementary
 Enrollment 200
 Student body: Indian & Eskimo
 Area served: Draw children from all over Alaska. Cares for orphans and other children who for various reasons cannot remain at home.

Secondary and Higher Education in Alaska (Continued)

(3) - Day Schools:

96, chiefly in "Isolated areas where no other schools exist."

(4) - In 1950 Estimated numbers of native children include:

10,500	children of school age
2,950	in 88 territorial schools
4,200	in about 100 ANS community schools
900	ANS boarding schools
600	In private schools (Mission)
<u>8,650</u>	
1,850	not enrolled
<u>10,500</u>	

D -- Schools and homes maintained by churches in Alaska

The Methodist Church: a. Women's Division of Christian Service
Jesse Lee Home, Seward
b. Division of Home Missions
Church work only at present.
Is interested however, in a Christian College for the future.

Protestant Episcopal Church:
Schools; Allakaket
Nenana

Moravian Church in America:
Bible School: Bethal
Children's Home; Nunapitsinghak

United Lutheran Church in America:
No institutions

Northern Baptist:
a. Woman's American Baptist Home
Mission Society
Children's Home; Kodiak
b. American Baptist Home Mission
Society
No institutions

Society of Friends:
Bible School; Noorvik

Secondary and Higher Education in Alaska (Continued)

Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.:

- a. Department of Educational and Medical work
Sheldon Jackson Junior College: Sitka
Haines House: Haines
- b. Department of Work in Alaska
No institutions

Roman Catholic Church: 5 schools - only 1 high school, no accredited high schools

Seventh Day Adventist and Other Religious Groups - 8 schools

E -- Population gains - 1939-1950

Alaska's Native population gained 1,636 or about 5 percent between 1939 and 1950, the Alaska Development Board has been advised from Washington. Total native population as determined by the census taken April 1, 1950 was 33,884, the Board was advised.

The breakdown of 1950 population by race, the Development Board learned, ^{was}: White, 92,783; Alaska Native (Eskimo, Indian and Aleut), 33,884; Other Races, 1,976.

In 1939 at the time of the previous census, the Alaska population breakdown had been: White 39,170; Native 32,458; Other Races, 896.

The white population in Alaska gained 53,613 or approximately 137 percent in the 10½ year period between censuses. The Territory's total population gain of 77 percent since 1940 was greater than that of any state or other territory.

Excerpts from Alaska Development Board

Juneau, Alaska

February 9, 1952

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II. TABULATION OF DATA FROM FACT AND OPINION SURVEY OF
GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS

(Note to the reader: A large amount of detailed material comprising Section II is on file with the Board and is available to those concerned. That data was used as a basis for section III which presents the findings and analysis upon which the recommendations were based. The brief summaries which follow indicate the sources of the data which was used.)

A. Material secured from groups and organizations:

The texts of the eight items in this section are on file with the Board of National Missions. The communications from Yukon and Alaska Presbyteries, from Alaska Presbyterial and from Grand Camp ANB emphasize the need for educational facilities under church auspices. All favor continuing and strengthening the junior college program at SJJC, and continuing the high school for the present. Yukon Presbytery especially emphasizes the need for similar advantages in the area. There is a general agreement that a program including carefully selected vocational offerings in addition to a two year liberal schedule should be included in the curriculum. There is unanimous emphasis upon the importance of strong Christian training programs.

- B. A summary of opinions of a dozen or more persons in some type of official capacity in Alaska presented views on education in its relation to the economic, social and religious life of the territory.
- C. In the same way nearly fifty persons living in the various parts of Alaska were interviewed for a cross section of opinion.
- D. Responses of 26 Alumni to a questionnaire indicated a keen concern for the future of Sheldon Jackson. Almost unanimously this group stressed the religious phase of the schools contribution to individuals and to communities. There were many expressions of deep gratitude to the church for sustaining such a school. Suggestions were made as to elements which might strengthen the school's program in the future.
- E. Information from questionnaires from high school seniors.

A study of 317 seniors in the Alaska high schools in the spring of 1952 to ascertain their plans for college attendance. A questionnaire was prepared (copy) and distributed to the administrators of the high schools. Of about 375 boys and girls in the senior classes in the high schools

in Alaska 317 returns from 16 high schools were received and studied. In all Alaska there are 29 schools offering high school work, twenty-four are Territorial, one ANS (Mt Edgecombe) and 4 private. Only 14 of the Territorial high schools are accredited, however, the others being very small and in some cases offering only a partial secondary course. Four private schools offer high school courses but only two, Sheldon Jackson and Pius X Mission are listed in the Commissioner's report for 1950. Reports were not included from Nome, Cordova and Kodiak.

1. Race by schools.

Of 317 high school seniors in Alaska answering a questionnaire as to college plans, 78% are white--13% Indians, 6% Eskimo -- 2% other. The smaller towns in southeast Alaska with Sheldon Jackson and Mt. Edgecombe supply most of the Indians, while the Eskimos with the exception of one go to Mt. Edgecombe. There are white students in larger cities in southeast Alaska, and the schools in the Yukon Presbytery area are almost entirely white.

2. College Plans

One hundred eighty-seven boys and girls, 58% indicate intention to attend college. Of these 155 (83%) are white, 21 (11%) are Indian and 7 (4%) are Eskimo. Of those in the senior class 60% of the white students planned to go to college, 50% of the Indians and 35% of the Eskimos. 58% of the total class looked forward to college, which is a very high percentage. That does not include over thirty who were uncertain as to their plans.

Of all who plan to go to college 86% are white. Only 26 or 16% plan to go to University of Alaska and but 3 of them are from Alaska Presbytery. Ten (6%) all Indian indicate plans to come to SJJC next year. The vast majority (80%) expect to go outside for their college work. Of those going outside the number of boys and girls 79 and 72 is about equal. Three times as many boys as girls plan to go to University of Alaska (19 to 7) and to Sheldon Jackson 3 boys and 7 girls plan to come.

(Tables are on file which give the above material in detail.)

F. Reports and interviews from the Sheldon Jackson Staff are on file.

G. Mr. Yaw's report likewise is on file.

III. ---SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS OF DATA

A. Educational Needs which Have Been Found

1. Interracial education

In a world in which interracial relationships have become a major issue in almost every part of the globe it is not surprising that in Alaska, with three principal racial groups, consciousness of race is an important factor as her people face the issues of the day. In the field of education the Territorial Commission works on an interracial basis and within the last few years schools in many of the cities and towns have begun to admit children of all races. Formerly white children were largely the ones cared for in the schools in most localities and the Indians and Eskimos who received education were in schools provided by the Alaska Native Service of the Department of the Interior.

According to Mrs. Hildegard Thompson, Department of Interior and Mr. Hugh Wade, Area Director of ANS, the policy now is to transfer schools to the Territory as soon as facilities can be provided.

Sheldon Jackson Junior College began as a mission school for Indian children and so continued until recently when an announced multi-racial policy was stressed. To date, there have been a few white students but it continues to be known by many as a school for Indians and Eskimos.

In the high school grades it is true most white children live in towns with educational facilities and many of the Indians are in villages with nothing beyond the eighth grade. Therefore, more Indian boys and girls are desirous of availing themselves of secondary educational opportunities in such a school.

On the junior college level figures indicate that there are many white children graduating from high schools in all parts of Alaska who do not find facilities for higher education available. Plans of the senior classes in 1952 indicate that of those planning to go to college 80%, largely white, expect to go outside Alaska for further education; 16% may go to the University of Alaska. For those who live in southeastern Alaska, many colleges in the States are nearer than the University of Alaska is. Some of these seniors indicated they would prefer to attend college in Alaska and some recorded interest in what an accredited junior college could offer.

2. Continuing need for secondary education

Alaska is a long way from providing adequate educational facilities for all its children. Twenty-nine schools offer high school curricula but two-thirds of them are not accredited. Facilities are so few that the vast majority of high school age children do not have access to them. For children in small communities where secondary education is likely to be unavailable for a long time provision needs to be made. The ANS has Mt. Edgecombe Boarding School for native children (about 300 in high school). Some children leave their homes going to towns where there are schools, and board there the school year. A few more than 200 are in private and denominational schools. There are approximately 20,000 in the various grade schools of the Territory and from them there are many who have no opportunity to attend high school. Effort is being made to meet

III. ---SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS OF DATA (Continued)

the situation but it is a complicated process. Eventually all public schools will be administered by the Territory as the ANS gradually withdraws from educational work. Children from small and scattered communities will continue to have to depend upon coming to larger towns to public schools or upon attending private schools since many such communities are too small to support a high school. The church schools, of which S J J C is the oldest and largest secondary school, are in position to help the situation by offering a good standard curriculum and in addition they provide Christian surroundings and influence for children away from home. While there is definite need to enlarge opportunities for college education, the time has by no means arrived when secondary education can be provided by other agencies.

3. Need for higher education

Within the Territory, the University of Alaska with 350 students, nearly half of whom come from the States, and Sheldon Jackson Junior College are the two institutions of higher education. Geographically, they are 1,000 miles apart. At present only a few students from the area comprising Alaska Presbytery attend the University. The survey of seniors indicated 66 from Alaska Presbytery and 85 from the Yukon Presbytery planned to go outside Alaska if they attended college, while only 26 of the whole number expected to attend the University. Possible extension classes in limited fields may come to such southeastern Alaska cities as Juneau and Ketchikan and perhaps an extension division or a community college may be set up in the Anchorage area in the future. These developments by the Territory would not serve the same purpose as a church-related college such as Sheldon Jackson Junior College.

A comparatively small population scattered over a vast area makes the provision of adequate and convenient opportunities for higher education in Alaska a peculiarly difficult problem. With only about 400 graduates each year from high school, many of whom are predisposed to attend college outside, and with the necessity for long distances to be travelled for many, the number to attend a college is abnormally low.

There are many people in Alaska who express a concern for Christian emphasis in the educational program. The University of itself does not provide for that and probably could do so only with the cooperation of some religious group or groups.

4. Need for interdenominational approach

Because Alaska has a large number of different religious groups with small numbers in most of them, students from various religious backgrounds might feel the advantage of attending a Christian College. A positive Christian program is possible which could satisfy the needs of this wider group.

5. Need for community level educational services

The population distribution and distances between concentrations of population make the creation of several community centers of education a possible answer to Alaska's need. There is a very

III. ---SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS OF DATA (continued)

articulate desire for educational facilities in the Anchorage area. Some interest on the part of the University to experiment along that line is indicated in measures which have been presented to the Territorial Legislature urging the establishing of extension services to some half dozen localities. So far, lack of funds has discouraged such legislation.

B. Distinctive Function of the Missionary Institution in Education

1. The policy of the Board

Educational programs sponsored by the Board of National Missions are set up in accordance with the Board's stated policies for the educational institutions. Specific policies which apply to the situation in Alaska include:

- a. That the program of every station be regarded as an integral part of the total evangelistic program of the Board for the distinctive population group or the area served.
- b. That the program of every station both in the institution proper and through well-organized extension services be developed to meet the needs — religious, social, health, economic and recreation — of the group which it touches; this program to be constructive, flexible and adaptable, and to be carried on in close cooperation with other agencies.
- c. That the objectives of the Board's educational work are to develop Christian leaders capable of assisting in and of initiating worthwhile activities, spiritual, social, physical, intellectual and economic, in their homes, schools, churches and communities.
- d. The existing standards for educational work be met without sacrificing the program's basic objective. That the level of the educational program be determined by the local need, with emphasis upon high school and junior college rank.
- e. That schools shall develop definite programs of extension service in the local community and the home communities of students.
- f. That the program shall provide for the regular curriculum for the level concerned, for an adequate counseling program, and that emphasis upon development of Christian character shall be fundamental to all activities.

2. Provision for religion in higher education

At present the Territory of Alaska is practically devoid of Christian education facilities, and is definitely lacking in provision for any kind of higher education. In communications and in interviews, persons concerned for Alaska's future almost unanimously expressed their feeling that Sheldon Jackson Junior College is filling a need especially in southeastern Alaska. Those living in the interior (Anchorage-Palmer) area strongly urged the need for facilities for higher education, particularly those with a Christian emphasis in that part of the Territory.

III. ---SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS OF DATA (continued)

3. Provision for community service

Alaska is a fast growing frontier area confronted with the opportunities and at the same time with the problems of such a situation. Communities are growing in population and in economic strength, some practically mushrooming because of industrial or military locations. That means a large number of people who come to Alaska are there on a short term basis, and there are those who in many cases join with irresponsible newcomers and others to support activities which harm the community. Moral and religious standards tend to let down in such an atmosphere. Consciousness of this situation was expressed by many of those interviewed, and led to the conclusion that the need for higher education under religious auspices is particularly significant.

In the area of community services - cultural, health, recreational, as well as in all phases of religious service, there is unlimited need and opportunity. In some localities the church and those trained by church schools are the only agencies present to cope with the varied needs of the population. In all communities the church groups tend to supply a goodly portion of the dependable public spirited citizens. It is a clear responsibility of the Christian school not only to train potential leaders in community service but to promote and implement activities of this nature to the limit of its resources.

C. Role of Sheldon Jackson Junior College.

1. Because S J J C has been the only school offering opportunity for many who live in southeast Alaska to receive education beyond the grade school, it is generally looked to to carry on in that field. Among those interviewed, many officials and civic leaders, as well as other citizens in various communities expressed the opinion that S J J C, especially as it continues to stress college curriculum is a much needed part of the educational pattern as it may develop in Alaska in the future. The need for added opportunities for vocational education, for teacher training, and for junior college preparation for continuation of degrees in colleges in the States was emphasized. The fact that S J J C represents Christian education was favorable commented upon by those who are not interested primarily in the church as well as by those connected with Presbyterian Churches.

The fact that S J J C is completing seventy-five years of educational service and is the oldest institution for education in the Territory, is a consideration in itself. A large and loyal body of alumni and friends, particularly among the natives but by no means limited to them, has grown up and is represented in almost every community in southeastern Alaska. Consequently there has developed a very close affiliation between the Presbyterian Churches in the whole area and the school. This volume of good will is of mutual value and is an important consideration as future plans are made for the church's educational program.

2. As time has gone on a campus of unusual beauty and with great potentials for expansion has been developed. With the physical plant has grown a fine tradition which permeates all the villages and towns. This kind of investment is valuable beyond measure and is an important consideration in any educational planning undertaken

C. Role of Sheldon Jackson Junior College (Continued)

by our church. The responses to questionnaires sent to persons in a number of communities indicated the staunchest kind of loyalty to S J J C and a deep appreciation of what the school has contributed to the life of the whole territory.

3. Because it is located where it is accessible to all the scattered communities whether by air or by water(and now by radio) S J J C has served and can increasingly serve as a center for varied extension services. The need for such services has been indicated above. Other agencies are conscious of some of the needs and there is a wide field for cooperative effort in addition to the development of the schools own fields of service. Its location makes S J J C especially near to the needs in southeast Alaska but through extension programs its contribution need not be limited to that area. Extensive unmet need for services appropriate to an extension program of the school is evident throughout all Alaska, particularly as it was expressed by residents in the Yukon Presbytery.
4. Alaska is in the process of change even greater than that in most of the rest of the country. This has affected the lives of all her people native and newcomers alike and is felt particularly by her young people. A school, to successfully serve its youth needs constantly to assess its offering both curricular and extra curricular to meet the changing needs.

The situation in Alaska makes this particularly pertinent and at S J J C where the student body includes many boys and girls from native homes the impact of this process of rapid change is acute and presents its special problems. It is an area requiring constant and searching study to make possible helpful guidance in the social, moral and religious growth of its students.

- D. Modern travel facilities have done much to solve the problem of Alaska's great distances, but the fact remains that many young people in Alaska are being denied a college education because colleges in the States and the Universities of Alaska are too far from their homes. Some within reach of the University frankly state that they prefer education at Christian college. Practically all of the Yukon Presbytery communities are so far from Sitka that if students go away to school it is but little farther to go to the States, thus that large number of Presbyterian and other young people have so far been largely deprived of the kind of college S J J C has become in southeast Alaska. Serious consideration must be given to the needs of this large and growing population.

IV. ---RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are submitted as possibilities for the furtherance of Christian educational work in Alaska, timing and administrative detail to be worked out as feasible.

A. In southeastern Alaska.

1. To center in Sheldon Jackson Junior College in Sitka as follows:

a. The continuance of the secondary program on a completely interracial basis, with an enrollment in the high school department of approximately 150 students.

b. The strengthening of the Junior College program at Sheldon Jackson.

- (1) Accreditation of the Junior College
- (2) Recruitment of a student body of approximately 50 students on an interracial basis
- (3) Development of the two types of two-year curriculum at Sheldon Jackson:

First, a two-year terminal program of those who do not intend to go on for four-year degrees.

Second, two years of a planned four-year program, the last two years of which would be completed in selected colleges in the States with whom arrangements would be made for transfer.

- (4) Institution of a program of finding employment designed to enable the junior college students to finance third and fourth years in a college in the States.
- (5) Organizing of Junior College as a separate unit on the Sheldon Jackson Campus; continuing to share certain faculty members and continuing participation in some joint activities on the campus.
- (6) It is to be noted that adjustment of the numbers of high school and junior college students ought to be made as the needs ~~diminish~~ or grow.

c. The planning of buildings and other facilities at Sitka in terms of a total enrollment of 200.

d. Development of special services at Sheldon Jackson and as extension work from Sheldon Jackson in various communities in Alaska.

Adult Education
Leadership training and help in local
religious education programs
Radio
Recreation, etc.

- e. Put major financial resources into an enriched educational program and additional personnel. Build and maintain adequate facilities in terms of a student body composed of 150 high school students and 50 junior college students' needs.
 - f. Set up an advisory committee of persons living in Alaska.
2. Set up a field work department to cooperate with Sheldon Jackson, including responsibility for:
- a. Extension to adult education, leadership training, etc. off campus
 - b. Special services: radio, recreation, special help to churches, etc.
 - c. Intensive student recruitment
 - d. Certain aspects of public relations
 - e. Cooperative extension with the University of Alaska and with other denominations
 - f. Development of increased financial support for the program

B. In the interior:

(It is understood that this part is altogether tentative to be submitted to representatives of the University, the denominations concerned and others for reaction, modification, amplification before any specific action is asked from our own Board. The committee contemplates continued study and conference with other agencies with possible future reports of progress. There is no doubt in the thinking of the committee that there is need for educational facilities in this section of Alaska, and it is earnestly hoped that concrete plans may emerge at an early date).

- 1. To explore the possibility of a cooperative plan for work in religion in connection with the University of Alaska.
 - a. Possible provision for a Christian student center at the University (Interdenominational?) and to provide courses in religion if a plan can be developed.
 - b. From the religious education staff at Sheldon Jackson loan members part-time to the University of Alaska for work in the projected community colleges.
 - c. Possibly loan other faculty members for community college courses.
- 2. Cooperation with other denominations
 - a. To suggest to the Methodist Church and others that they consider cooperating in personnel and finance in a program with the University of Alaska at Fairbanks and in the projected community branches of the University of Alaska in such communities as Anchorage, for example.

IV. ---RECOMMENDATIONS (continued)

- b. To stand ready to cooperate with the Methodists and others in planning and implementing programs which may be developed cooperatively.

Approval by the Board of National Missions

It is recommended that the Board receive and approve the report of the Alaska Study Committee with the understanding that the sections involving other agencies (University of Alaska, other denominations) require further study on the part of the Committee and further report for action.

Favorably acted upon by the Board, September 25, 1952.

PROPOSED ADMINISTRATIVE PLAN FOR ALASKA

At present the work of National Missions in Alaska is administered directly by a headquarters department without provision for any formal participation by the Synod of Washington to which the two presbyteries in Alaska are ecclesiastically attached. The administrative plan for headquarters projects has not applied to the work in Alaska and the West Indies because of their distances from their respective synods and the differences in their problems.

The time has come for some adaptation of the pattern of administration in Alaska because of:

(1) the strengthening of the two presbyteries in Alaska with more strong churches and a more permanent ministry;

(2) the general strengthening of the sense of administrative responsibility at the synod level in National Missions for greater service and help to the church in Alaska;

(3) the availability of types of service and assistance at the synod level which cannot be provided through the headquarters office;

(4) the general psychology of a "new day" in Alaska generated by the coming of statehood. This includes expectation of growth and development, new self respect and self direction in Alaska, the general impression elsewhere that Alaska now holds a greater place in the nation and the church and more ought to be done to develop the work of our church there.

While Alaska is growing in the central areas, there is so much continuing "service ministry" in remote small places assigned to us under comity, which requires special attention and the major part of the support from the national church, it does not seem wise to choose between an all synod or all headquarters administration. We therefore propose a modified plan of headquarters administration which will provide information and a voice for the Synod through its Executive and Chairman of the Synod Committee of National Missions, for the two presbyteries of Alaska through their Chairmen of National Missions Committees in planning and budget projection, and continue the basic administration of National Missions in the Department of Work in Alaska. This proposal of the Council shall be recommended:

(1) to the Cabinet of Missionary Operation for the approval of the Board of National Missions; (2) to the Committee of National Missions of the Synod for the approval of the Synod; and (3) to the National Missions Committees of Alaska and Yukon Presbyteries for the approval of the Presbyteries.

The Plan

The Administrative Plan for Alaska

1. The administration of the work in Alaska shall be continued as a headquarters project assigned to the Department of Work In Alaska.
2. The Department shall provide for the participation of the Synod and the Presbyteries of Alaska in the administration of the work through the formation of an administrative council: which shall consist of the Secretary and Assistant Secretary of the Department, the Executive and Chairman of the National Missions Committee of the Synod, and the Chairmen of the National Missions Committees of Alaska and Yukon Presbyteries. This

Council shall meet annually to review the work, consider needs, policies and personnel matters, project the budget of askings for the coming year, seek capital funds for buildings from the Synod and the Board, and attend to such other matters as may be introduced for the advancement of the work. The Council may meet at other times as the Secretary, the Executive and the Chairman of the Synod Committee on National Missions may determine.

3. The program and budget adopted by the Council shall be administered by the Department of Work In Alaska which shall keep the Synod's Committee informed about its activities and problems through the Synod Executive and the Chairman of the Synod Committee.
4. The Secretary of the Department and the Assistant Secretary living in Alaska shall be ex-officio members, invited to attend all meetings, with voting privileges on matters pertaining to plans and program for Alaska.
5. The Assistant Secretary shall be directly responsible to the Secretary of the Department.
6. All members of the Synod Staff shall be considered available for service in the presbyteries in Alaska on the same basis as in the other presbyteries of the Synod within the program activities planned with the Synod Staff and approved by the Administrative Council or, between Council meetings, by the Secretary of the Department and the Synod Executive.



BOARD OF NATIONAL MISSIONS

OF THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

475 RIVERSIDE DRIVE, NEW YORK 27, N. Y.

RIVERSIDE 9-2200

February 3, 1961

To Members of the Study Committee and
Administrative units involved in the work of Alaska:

The Executive Committee of the Board received the final report of the Alaska Study Committee at its meeting last Thursday and took action to receive the report and refer it to the General Department of Program and General Services and other appropriate administrative units for study and implementation as implementation seems wise and becomes feasible.

The Executive Committee also voted to express its profound appreciation to the members of the Study Committee and to dismiss the Committee.

May I express my personal appreciation for the time spent and the energy given to this study by all those who participated in it. We know there were hardships created in relation to home responsibilities as well as many inconveniences involved in the performance of this task. I feel sure that your reward will consist finally not alone in having responded to the request of the Board to perform this specific service, but in advances in our work in Alaska which will become evident to you as time passes.

The Board took no exception to any item in the report, but it should be made clear that in receiving the report it did not approve, or adopt, specific items. For instance, it was aware that the Department of Radio and Television may be making a recommendation about KSEW which will not be the same as that in the report.

Those of you who are related to administering units either in the Headquarters organization or the Synods or Presbyteries should now examine the report carefully and consider the possibilities of implementing items in the report with appropriate recommendations to the group with which you work.

It does not need to be said that the Board is in no position to provide funds for the implementation of the report as it stands all at once or in the immediate future. Each recommended item will have to confront the budget situation which exists at the time it comes in as a working recommendation and will have to stand or fall by its own merit as a worthy recommendation at the time it is presented. However, the fact that it is an item in the report of the Study Committee will carry weight in future considerations.

I would call your attention to the fact that many items can be implemented without too much budget support. These relate to organizational features and programs which are not costly.

We shall do everything we can here at Headquarters to assist in the procedures which should follow the reception of this report by the Board.

Sincerely yours,

ALEXANDER E. SHARP

Associate General Secretary for
Program and General Services

J. Z. Jackman

Report of the Alaska Study Committee
to the Board of National Missions
December 14, 1960

The Board of National Missions has had a long and continuing concern for the strengthening and expansion of the ministry of the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. in Alaska, expressed both by frequent study and substantial amounts of mission aid.

The present study originated in an action of the Executive Committee of the Board on June 13, 1958 authorizing a survey of our work in Alaska, "in view of the changes taking place in the Territory." Alaska was taking on new significance in the light of its new military importance, the search for and discovery of oil, the developing plans for several pulp mills to utilize the lumber resources of southeastern Alaska, the closer contacts and growing tourism coming out of the building of a highway system and the phenomenal development of air transportation. Impending statehood and a concomitant strengthening of leadership and the sense of ecclesiastical responsibility within the Church in Alaska provided an additional incentive to re-study.

Subsequent to the 1958 action, population studies and projections were collected and analyzed and a questionnaire was circulated to the churches seeking information about their own needs and about the possibilities of expansion and coordination of work in adjacent areas with which the workers and laymen of the established work might be familiar. These questionnaires received from all but five churches, were submitted to headquarters during the winter of 1958-59 and the summer of 1959.

On February 5, 1960, a further study process was precipitated by the Board's action closing Haines House and the concurrent decision to study the needs of children in the state "in order that the Board might continue its active concern for neglected and emotionally disturbed children in Alaska..." A cabinet study committee, which had been appointed earlier and which had submitted a report

in April, was expanded by Board action on April 28, 1960, and, on June 2, 1960 the following assignment was given:

"to discover exactly where and how the Board should be moving in Alaska through a list of priorities to be determined by survey with representatives of the Alaska presbyteries and the Synod of Washington."

In the period June 27-July 5, 1960 representatives of the Study Committee comprised a survey team which visited Alaska. This team conducted a series of interviews in Ketchikan, Juneau, Anchorage, and Fairbanks discussing needs with United Presbyterian U.S.A. workers and laymen who were brought into these four points and also with key people from state and local offices. Group interviews provided background information about trends and community needs from the point of view of the ministry of the churches, social welfare, population and economic growth, real estate trends, and public school trends and problems. Members of the team also visited Hood Bay cannery, Angoon, Hoonah, Sitka, Haines, and Klukwan.

During the trip the survey team collected information available in mimeographed or printed form and was alert to ask specific questions relating to the problems which had been posed in the origin of the study.

The Study Committee also utilized reports from the earlier phase of study, together with important resource material including:

Harrington, Janette T.	<u>The New Alaska, 1959</u>
Jackman, Earl	<u>Program of Ministry for the Mission</u>
	<u>Motorships in Southeastern Alaska -</u>
	<u>Alaska Presbytery, April 1960</u>
Kearns, Paul S.	<u>Presbyterian Campus Ministry in Alaska</u>
Perry, Everett L.	<u>A Survey of Radio Station KSEW, Sitka,</u>
	<u>Alaska Summary and Conclusions,</u>
	<u>February 1959</u>
Regier, Jon	<u>Visit to Alaska, January 30 to February</u>
	<u>8, 1960</u>
Rogers, George W.	<u>Alaska in Transition, Baltimore: John</u>
	<u>Hopkins Press, 1960</u>
Special Committee on	<u>Recommendations to the Board of National</u>
Children's Work in	<u>Missions, April 7, 1960</u>
Alaska	

After careful review of these materials and suggestions, recommendations were presented to a meeting of Alaska and Yukon Presbyteries consulting in joint session, November 8 and 9, 1960. This meeting produced additional material for the committee to examine.

This report is the judgment of the committee regarding future program in Alaska.

I. Children's Work

A major concern of the committee was consideration of present and future programs for children and youth.

The committee noted that two general trends in child care as they relate to institutional work are also found in Alaska. One of these is the strong move to eliminate long-term institutional care, using institutions temporarily, rather, to prepare children for adoption, foster home placement, or return to their own homes. The second is the development of day care programs. Some children, however, require therapy in highly professionalized institutions for varying periods of time.

The interviews in Alaska pointed up the fact that, with the decline in incidence of TB, fewer children are deprived of parental care, and more homes are available for foster care than in previous years. They also indicated that the children's homes in Alaska, most of which are operated by independent sectarian groups, are the long-term care type of institution that do not provide specialized care. They are currently operating at about 60 percent of their 800 capacity, indicating an obvious lack of need for such service.

The welfare officials, fully aware of this situation, felt that there is a very significant need for an institution which would provide enlightened professional care for adolescents and younger children who are neither juvenile delinquents nor so badly disturbed that they need psychiatric care. The committee raised serious question, however, as to whether the United Presbyterian

Church is in a position to provide such care at this time. Rather, the conclusion was that the state should be encouraged to provide this type of care. Some of the state welfare officials strongly urged the Church to concentrate at the local community level in the group work program of the local congregation which is its own special genius rather than attempting institutional care.

As a result of these conversations, and the appraisal of the resources available, the committee concludes that the proper approach of the Church to child welfare needs in the State is the development of family services, counseling, recreational and kindred programs with major investment in personnel and program instead of in buildings and formal institutions. This will provide the greatest degree of flexibility in a highly fluid period and will permit maximum use of the church's skill and experience in personnel and programing relating to the local community.

Each congregation in Alaska must become sensitive to the needs of children and youth in its community and minister to their needs as a redemptive fellowship reaching out in love in every way open to it. The Church's responsibility to the children and youth of Alaska cannot be entirely met by the care of a few children in an institution, valuable as that institution and its services may be.

Based on its study the committee makes the following specific proposals to implement this approach.

A. Institutional work

1. Fairbanks

Hospitality House is commended for its excellent service which has resulted in general public approval and high regard by state welfare workers. Mrs. Rasmussen is commended for outstanding work as Director. It is recommended:

- a. that Hospitality House be administered as a headquarters project with a local administrative committee;

- b. that an additional staff member be employed at Hospitality House to relieve the Director in order that she may devote more time to guidance and personal work with the residents, and
- c. that immediate physical improvements be made at Hospitality House to include new storage space, garage, deep-freeze, and completion of the resident's apartment.

2. Anchorage

We note with alarm urgent areas of need not now being met by the United Presbyterian Church, or any other church in the Anchorage area,

It is the concern of our Committee that the Church of Anchorage should take cognizance of these needs, especially in the field of youth work, perhaps exploring the success of the Hospitality House work in Fairbanks, and develop a program to meet some of the needs.

It is recommended:

- a. that First Church be encouraged to use its facilities for program to the downtown area, particularly in group work and/or a youth center program;
- b. That the Church take the initiative in organizing a Citizen's Committee for development and support of needed welfare service, or, if the Interagency Council has already such a group, that it participate actively in this Council and help the Council project a program to meet local needs; and
- c. That the strategy committee of Yukon Presbytery in the Anchorage area take cognizance of the needs of children and youth in the area and stimulate a program for meeting these needs through the churches of Anchorage, particularly First Church with which the Board of National Missions should be asked to provide consultation and support as the work progresses.

3. Ketchikan

The Committee notes for future development the need for a community center or Hospitality House.

B. Services to Children through the Churches

Inasmuch as the Committee feels strongly that the primary service the United Presbyterian Church can perform in relation to needs and welfare of children is that of providing recreational and religious services through a seven day per week program, and

Inasmuch as the survey indicated that many of the churches, being small, do not have a strong program in this field, the Committee recommends:

1. Statewide Service:

- a. that special attention be given to providing counsel and direction in the development of such programs through the office of the general presbyter;
- b. that consideration be given to employment of a well-trained person in group work and Christian education to give this counsel and direction to local churches as soon as feasible. In the meantime the general presbyter and the director of Christian education should assume responsibility for this area, using pastors both locally and generally as may be possible;

2. Yakutat:

For specific experimentation in depth in a group work approach to a small village, that Yakutat be used as a pilot project.

3. Juneau

- a. Because Memorial Church seems to have strategic opportunity for a strong complete ministry, that a pilot project be initiated there. This would include a special ministry to children and youth, group work, family service, homemakers service, counselling, etc. The first step might include the employment of a secretary and a second advance, the procuring of a group worker.
- b. As part of this project, that Isabel Miller be assigned to head up a pilot family service and homemakers service in Juneau related to the Memorial Church. This should include secretarial help with an office for information in the church.

4. Sheldon Jackson:

In view of the large number of youth in this area it is urged that a community program be developed at Sheldon Jackson with emphasis on recreation. This might eventually involve erection of a new student union building.

5. Sitka Church:

Because of the concentration of need in the Sitka area, involving both students at Sheldon Jackson and students, patients, and staff at Mt. Edgecumbe, it is recommended that a National Missions worker be attached to the staff of the Sitka Church.

C. Political Action

The church should support and encourage concern for high professional standards of child care and for the development by the state of professional service agencies and institutions which will directly provide the type of institutional services to children which are most needed.

II. Education

Recent studies of Sheldon Jackson made unnecessary a committee review of the work of this institution which represents the major educational effort of the denomination in the state. However, the following items bear upon possible functions of Sheldon Jackson:

A. Orientation*

It is recommended that orientation for ministers, laymen, and welfare workers be developed. Sheldon Jackson should be considered as an orientation center. The background and experience of persons already living in Alaska should be utilized insofar as possible in this program.

B. Alcohol Education**

Essential to a full ministry to the people of Alaska is the development of programs to meet the many problems arising out of the use of beverage alcohol. To meet the problems the following suggestions are commended by the Committee:

1. Development of church sponsored programs of alcohol education such as those suggested by the Department of Church and Society of the Board of Christian Education.

* See VIII, 4, p. 14.

** See Minutes of Alaska Study Committee, Sept. 6,7, 1960 pp. 10,11 for full statement.

2. Cooperation of churches in sponsorship of community program of alcohol education.
3. Provision of recreation, amusement, activity, and opportunities for informal socializing in a non-alcoholic setting for all age groups.
4. Fostering of seminars in alcohol and alcoholism. An Alaskan Summer School of Alcohol Studies might be developed on the campus of Sheldon Jackson for training of pastors and others in effective teaching and counselling.
5. Attendance of selected candidates at programs such as Yale or Utah.
6. Cooperation with reputable agencies working in the field, particularly Alcoholics Anonymous.

C. Training Program for Native Ministers

The great need for an aggressive recruitment and training program for native Eskimo ministers is noted. The possibility of establishing a leadership training center for lay church workers at Sheldon Jackson is recommended.

III. Development of the Church, including New Church Development

The final 1960 total population count for the state of Alaska is 226,167, a gain of 97,524 or 75.8 percent over the report of 1950. Well over half of this total population is found in the Anchorage district (82,833) and in the Fairbanks district (43,412). It is clear that a very sizeable proportion of the Anchorage area and an even larger proportion of Fairbanks is directly or indirectly dependent upon the military. If estimates are accurate that there are about 50,000 military personnel in the state with an additional 41-47,000 comprising civilian employees of military and their families, the high dependence on the military is clearly evident. This, along with other elements of uncertainty in a state as fluid as is Alaska, makes rigid long-range plans impracticable. Projections must allow for constant local contact and revision of plans when necessary.

A. Anchorage Area

As the bulk of concentrated growth is now and is likely to continue to be in the Anchorage vicinity it is strongly recommended that the church strategy organization of national missions for the Anchorage area be strengthened for on-the-spot guidance to strategy development, purchase of sites, financing and strengthening existing churches, and organization of new churches. Membership of the committee should include laymen, knowledgeable and competent in the fields involved.

It is also recommended:

1. that work in Nunaka Valley be continued;
2. that a new church in East Anchorage be organized as soon as possible;
3. that development of work in the Sand Lake area be undertaken when housing justifies it;
4. that developing areas be studied for new church development opportunities in consultation with the proper interdenominational group;
5. that the First Church, Anchorage remain downtown in a strategic location to serve the whole community; and
6. that a written agreement, if possible, be prepared in relation to our O'Malley Road site. (The committee saw no possibility of early development in this area but expressed its appreciation that property is being held by a member of Trinity Church for a Presbyterian church site).

B. Other Cities

The committee noted the need of strengthening and developing the work further in the other cities to which some migration is occurring. For instance, in recognition that a large part of the program of the Sitka church is related to national missions service the committee recommends that, in addition to the employment of a staff member to be supplied by national missions to carry this program under the direction of the Sitka church session as noted above, the church be urged to look into adjacent property for possible purchase.

The committee suggests strongly that the three churches of the Juneau area, Memorial and Northern Light in Juneau and the Chapel by the Sea in Auke Bay, organize some form of collaborative effort to coordinate staff, and services, and planning for a total impact on the community by the United Presbyterian Church.

The committee recommends that an overall church building plan be developed in the College (Fairbanks) area to house a suitable ministry to the university community. The committee commends to the Board the study Presbyterian Campus Ministry in Alaska by Paul S. Kearns, October 1960.

Ketchikan is a port of entry, economically and socially, and a business center serving communities within a radius of 90 miles. Many people come to this area for shopping, medicine, and recreational facilities. The church is called upon to perform a ministry far beyond the demands normally expected of a church in a community the size of Ketchikan. Therefore, it is recommended that personnel and finances should be made available to carry on a necessary program. The Committee recommends a strong consistent emphasis on friendship evangelism, designed to reach not only people outside of the church but those within the church to the end of deeper Christian commitment. The Committee recommends the employment of a person to fill the dual responsibility of secretary and parish visitor.

IV. Ministry to Scattered Peoples and to Smaller Villages

An important part of the problem of the churching of Alaska is that posed by a sparse population scattered over wide areas. This is characteristic of the small native villages of the southeast where there is virtually no land transportation as well as of the areas along the highways and railroad in the interior and on the Arctic Coast.

In the southeast, the economy has been bolstered and expanded modestly with the establishment of two pulp mills. A third is contemplated. Business activities in Ketchikan and Sitka have been expanded by this development and by tourism. In addition, an increasing number of small groups of men and families are living in lumber camps, calling for a strengthened ministry.

The committee believes that it is a basic responsibility of the United Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. to maintain a religious ministry to these difficult areas in accordance with a practice of long standing.

A. Itinerant and special ministries.

To cope with this situation in the southeast the Committee recommends:

1. that we begin a flying ministry in this area;
2. that the itinerating schedule of this flying ministry be set up by the general presbyter, the pilot-missionaries, and the chairman of the national missions committee of the Presbytery of Alaska;
3. that the flying ministry begin at this time using a commercial type of service, with the understanding that the general presbyter, pilot-missionaries, and chairman of the national missions committee of the Presbytery of Alaska begin immediately a study for report and recommendation within one year of the recommended type of flying ministry to be continued in southeastern Alaska. This study shall include at least the three following types of flying service;
 - a. Commercial
 - b. Church owned
 - c. Church leased
4. that the Board of National Missions sell the Princeton Hall,
5. that high priority be given to the appropriation of funds necessary to implement the findings of the study noted above and that full consideration be given to the program of daily vacation Bible schools and other services to these scattered communities.

B. Resident Village Ministries

The Committee also recommends the strengthening of resident ministries in the villages, adding strength^{to strength}, but also developing the work in areas where considerable weakness is now evident. The challenge is to develop a ministry in greater depth than in the past. It is recommended:

1. that a full time resident minister be obtained for Gambell;
2. that the work at Clear be developed, looking forward to an ordained minister as soon as feasible;
3. that, on the basis of priority lists established by the presbyteries, three fields a year be selected for special study and development of property and program;
4. that problems of over-churching, especially in the villages, be referred to the presbyteries for study and action;
5. that possibilities for "yoked fields" strategy for strengthening village ministries in Alaska Presbytery be explored;
6. that Eskimo ministers, essential to the ministry in the Arctic, be recruited. The Board of National Missions, the Synod, and the Presbytery of Yukon should do everything in their power to recruit and train Eskimo young people for the ministry at Barter Island, Barrow, Wainwright, Anaktuvuk Pass, and St. Lawrence Island;
7. that the Yakutat area be studied with regard to relocation of the church; and
8. that work at Willow be continued as a Sunday School Mission ministry.

C. Other Approaches

1. As another approach to the strengthening of work in the villages it is recommended that a sociologist be employed at Sheldon Jackson to work in close conjunction with an intensified program for understanding and impact on the villages from which the school draws its constituents.*

2. Recognizing the responsibility of the Church for community conditions, it is recommended that a Church and Community Cooperation program, as represented in the program of the Board of National Missions, be instituted by (a) general training seminars at presbytery meetings conducted by the Secretary of Church and Community Cooperation and (b) the selection of two projects for intensive demonstration work,

* See VIII, 2 and 4, p. 14.

one to be a larger community and the other a village. It is assumed that this would relate to the work of the sociologist and staff at Sheldon Jackson as well as to the training program for the ministry.

V. Radio:

The work of radio station KSEW in Sitka was reviewed and recommendations made to develop its function as a service to the whole of Alaska rather than merely to the Sitka area. It is recommended that radio station KSEW in Sitka be strengthened as:

- A. a production center for all of Alaska.
- B. a part of Sheldon Jackson Junior College serving as an adjunct to Departments of Radio and Speech.
- C. a closely related part of a larger Alaska strategy to wit:
 - 1. establishment of five centers from which broadcasts will be able to blanket most of Alaska - Sitka, Ketchikan, Juneau, Anchorage, Fairbanks;
 - 2. utilization and strengthening of existing programs in these five centers and development of new programs;
 - 3. investigation of FM broadcasting and short wave communication network to link pastors in isolated areas;
 - 4. investigation of the possibility of TV broadcasting in large urban centers.
 - 5. Ketchikan radio program coordinated with the boat ministry.

If, in view of changing conditions, the Board decides not to continue KSEW at Sitka, the Committee urges careful consideration of the balance of the above recommendations.

VI. Administration:

The survey team listened sympathetically to objections raised concerning delays and misunderstanding relating to the payment for building and boat repairs. Further conversations were held with those having adverse criticisms and with the property office before recommendations were drafted.

In regard to desirability of headquarters versus synod administration the committee conferred both with the Synod of Washington representatives on the committee and with the two presbyteries in separate session. No recommendation came from the Committee on this point.

It is recommended:

1. that \$500 be allowed for emergency payment of property bills to be held by Alaska field assistant;
2. that annual maintenance inspection be made for boats and contracts with reliable boat yard be drawn;
3. that an advance of \$2,500 be made to the skipper of the Anna Jackman; and
4. that the Executive Committee of the Administrative Council be established as a standing committee on financial planning for major building projects.

VII. Property:

The property of the United Presbyterian U.S.A. Church in Alaska has been carefully reviewed by the property office of the Board, the general presbyter, and the executive of the Synod.

The Committee has placed at the top of the list of recommendations items which now seem to be of most urgent nature. This is not an inclusive list, the Committee being aware that needs not listed or assigned priority may become urgent in the future. It is understood that requests for these and other property matters will be made through the normal channels.

It is recommended:

1. that the report of the general presbyter concerning property needs on St. Lawrence Island be implemented, and that special attention be given to the completion of the study and the meeting of property needs in other villages in Yukon Presbytery;
2. that the Carson property report be implemented;
3. that adequate housing for national missions personnel be provided, special attention being called to the need of a manse for the mobile ministry in the southeast;
4. that two satisfactory manses, one new, be completed at Barrow. A possible trade of property with the government is approved if it is in keeping with good planning, as checked by presbytery, property office, and church. It is hoped that this planning be so expeditious that the materials for work on manse facilities will be on the North Star in 1961 without fail;
5. that a first unit for the East Anchorage project be erected as soon as feasible;
6. that an educational unit for Ketchikan Church be erected;
7. that facilities for worship, recreation and housing of staff at Hollis Camp and at Hood Bay be provided;
8. that Trinity Church be given all possible guidance and support in its building expansion program;
9. that adequate building and financing plans be developed for College Church, Fairbanks;

10. that immediate improvements be made at Hospitality House, Fairbanks, to include new storage space, garage, deep-freeze and completion of the resident's apartment;
11. that a new student union building be erected at Sheldon Jackson;
12. that a new manse be provided at Sitka;
13. that property adjacent to the Sitka Church be purchased;
14. that a manse and church building be erected in the Sand Lake area, Anchorage, when needed;
15. that an attempt be made to procure a written agreement for the O'Malley Road site, Anchorage;
16. that a satisfactory manse be secured for the minister to Eskimos and military personnel in Fairbanks;
17. that a new manse be provided at Big Delta;
18. that continuing study be made of available property for a church and manse at Clear;
19. that there be consultation between the committee on financial planning for major building projects and the appropriate Board personnel to the end of suggesting steps to make new church development and building aid rules flexible enough to provide adequately for needs in Alaska, these being unique in such respects as comparative costs of materials and labor, ratio of local support, and types of construction;
20. that a site of five acres or more of property now owned by the Board at Haines be held by the Board of National Missions or presbytery for the Haines Church until the church is ready to act;
21. that a new manse be built at Savoonga;
22. that provision be made for a new church building at Yakutat;
23. that need for a mobile chapel to be used in places such as Willow and Six Mile, as they develop in Yukon Presbytery, be considered; and
24. that the manse at Wasilla be completed.

VIII. Personnel Matters:

A sub-committee of the Alaska Study Committee considered personnel problems raised by workers. These fall under several headings: orientation

and training; need for fellowship in isolated areas; conduct of presbytery functions; inadequate manses, salaries, and other conditions of employment.

It is recommended:

1. that in recognition of the need for more adequate community leadership, the presbyteries and the Personnel Department of the Board consult on a plan for recruiting Christian lay-personnel for public service in Alaska;
2. that a plan for specialized training be developed on the presbytery or inter-presbytery level, the areas suggested being evangelism, counselling, Christian education, group work, social service, and recreation;
3. that the presbyteries in consultation with the executive committee of the Alaska administrative council seek to effect a more adequate financial provision for performance of presbytery functions;
4. that a systematic plan be developed for the orientation of new missionaries and their wives in Alaska including a survey of the Indian and Eskimo culture, the history of Alaska, the history and present program of the United Presbyterian Church in Alaska, services available from public agencies, and, if possible, field visitation to typical situations;
5. that the presbyteries work out a program for meetings, at least semi-annually, of ministers and their wives to consider aspects of their work, especially evangelism;
6. that the presbyteries, the synod, and the Board consider ways and means for holding at least every three years an all-Alaska conference for employed missionaries and their families for purposes of inspiration, fellowship, and training;
7. that the Salary Committee of the Department of Missionary Personnel or its successor make a study of the suggested problem of variations in living costs in different parts of Alaska, and that consideration be given to the provision of utilities by the Board, as well as the furnished manse. An adjustment of 25 percent in Southeastern Alaska and 33 1/3 percent in the Interior is recommended;
8. that the Board, as part of its responsibility for personnel, give consideration to the supplying of adequate manses and furnishings in all National Missions situations, and that the local congregations be encouraged to carry as much of the local church budget and maintenance as possible;
9. that the presbyteries work out a uniform procedure for providing reasonable reimbursement for meals, lodging, and transportation of guests;

10. that the present provision for the services of seminary students in the summer, during the absences of ministers for extended periods, be continued and that it be expanded to include situations of unusual need requiring additional personnel even when the minister is on the field;
11. that the ministerial relations and national missions committees of the two presbyteries, in consultation with personnel from Sheldon Jackson, study vacation, furlough, and travel provisions, for report to the Alaska Administrative Council at its meeting in February 1961; and
12. that the presbyteries and the Board, in the selection of personnel, consider single men, couples, or families with children according to the needs of the field.

IX. Follow-up:

The Committee recommends that semi-annual written reports be made, by those administering the work in Alaska, on progress in carrying out the recommendations of the Committee which are adopted by the Board. Such reports should be made to the Board through the Division of Work through Synods and Presbyteries.

X. Conclusion:

The major directions in which the Committee believes the work of the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. in Alaska should be moving in the years ahead have been highlighted. These directions should have continuing validity for a long period of time. On the other hand, reference is also made to many specifics, the degree of urgency for accomplishment of which will change as time passes. Other specifics of high priority will undoubtedly emerge as the program is developed. Continuing restudy as part of the ongoing administrative process is encouraged.

This report presents the Board of National Missions, the Synod of Washington, and the Presbyteries of Alaska and Yukon, including local churches, ministers, missionaries, and laymen, a challenge which demands redirection and recommitment of resources. Deepening of dedication to the task of the Church,

growth in the understanding of how that task can best be carried out under the conditions of life in Alaska, willingness to devote time and energy far above what seems to be the normal call of duty, as well as specific decisions regarding personnel and finances are all involved in an adequate implementation of the findings.

The value of the study of Alaska can be proved only in the future, to the extent that it lays the groundwork for strengthening the impact of the Church and for deepening Its ministry in the 49th State.